MIKE W. BARR
GENE GONZALES
CALIBER COMICS
ISSUE 1
$2.95 USA $4.25 CAN
the MAZE AGENCY
JUSTICE GIRL 1998
THE MOVIE
GONZALES '1997

CREATED AND WRITTEN BY
Mike W. Barr

PENCILLED BY
Gene Gonzales

INKED BY
David Rowe

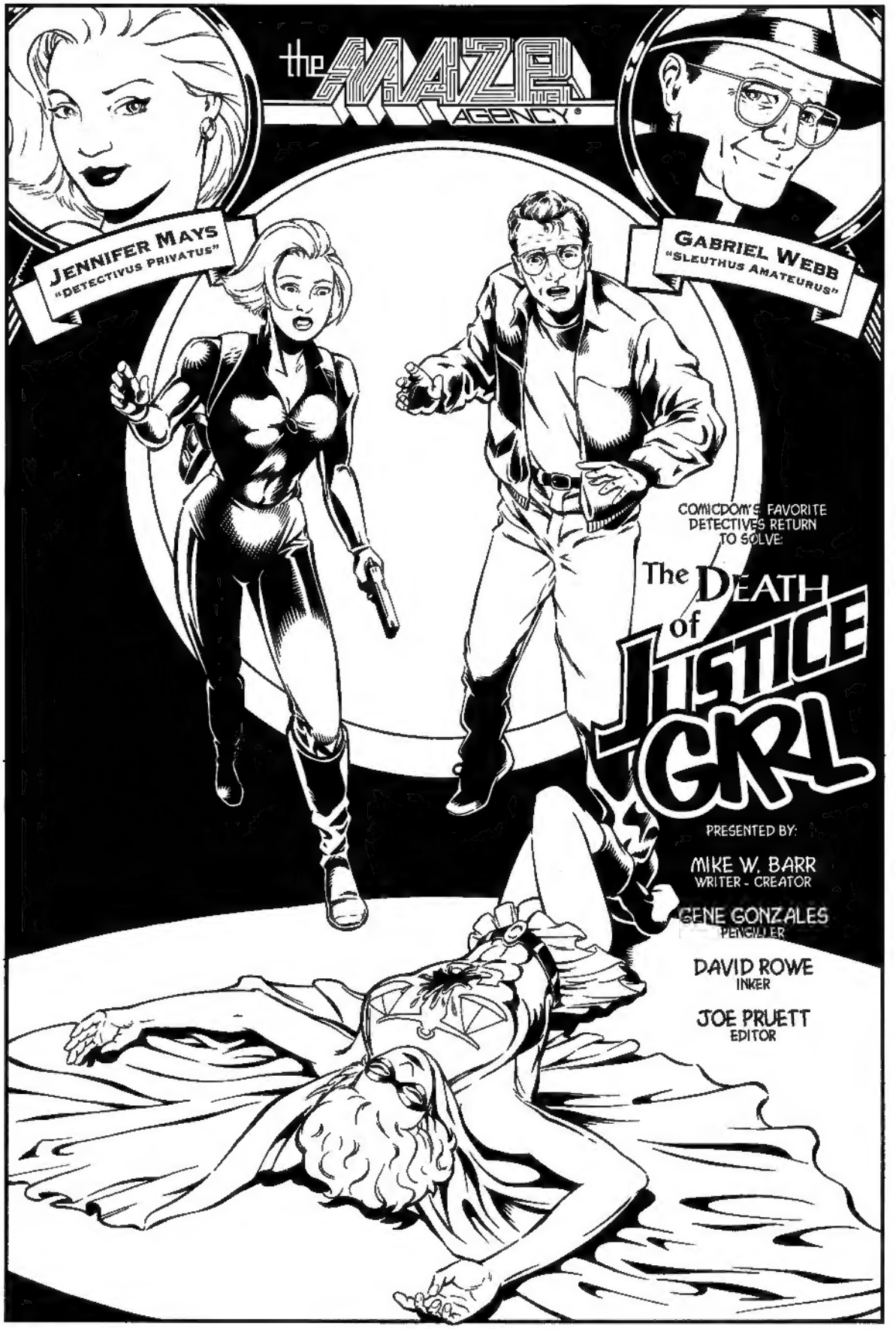
LETTERED BY
Caliber Graphics

EDITED BY
Joe Pruett

CALIBER COMICS STAFF
Gary Reed • Publisher
James Pruett • Managing Editor
Tim Parsons • Special Projects Editor
Nancy Durand • Administrator
Nate Pride • Production Manager
Scott Martyniuk • Graphics Production
Joe Martin • Graphics Coordinator
Joe Pruett • Creative Director

THE MAZE AGENCY vol. 2, no. 1 July 1997. Published by Caliber Comics, 225 W. Sheldon Road, Plymouth, MI 48170. E-mail: CalComic@aol.com. THE MAZE AGENCY is ® 1997 by Mike W. Barr. All characters and likenesses therein are ® by Mike W. Barr. No part of this book may be reproduced by any means, manual or electronic, without the written permission of Mike W. Barr and Caliber Comics.
First Printing.

Printed in the USA


the MAZE AGENCY®
JENNIFER MAYS
"DETECTIVUS PRIVATUS"
GABRIEL WEBB
"SLEUTHUS AMATEURUS"
COMICDOM'S FAVORITE DETECTIVES RETURN TO SOLVE:
The DEATH of JUSTICE GIRL
PRESENTED BY:
MIKE W. BARR
WRITER - CREATOR
GENE GONZALES
PENCILLER
DAVID ROWE
INKER
JOE PRUETT
EDITOR

I...I DON'T WANT TO...BUT DR. MESMER...HE MADE ME!
JUST GIVE IT HERE, KENNY AND--
GIVE THAT GUN TO ME, KENNY! YOU KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE! AND YOU CAN'T HURT ME!
JUSTICE GIRL!
I CAN'T, I--
BANG BANG BANG
AGGGGH!
WHAT!?
CUT--
GET A DOCTOR--NOW!
IT...WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE BLANKS...!
"DAMN IT, IT WAS LOADED WITH BLANKS! I'D STAKE MY REPUTATION ON THAT..."

...COME T'THINK OF IT, I DID! I GOT FIRED FROM THE UNION, LOST MY JOB! IF IT HADN'T BEEN THE LAST DAY OF FILMING, THE DAMN MOVIE WOULDN'T EVEN HAVE BEEN RELEASED! BUT I TELL YOU, PAL, I-- I...
...WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN?
GABE WEBB, MR. HOPKINS. YOU WERE THE PROP MASTER IN CHARGE OF THE GUNS ON THE "JUSTICE GIRL" SET, AND YOU LOADED THE GUN WITH BLANKS?
"DAMN IT, I DID! HOW THE GUN GOT LOADED WITH LIVE CHARGES, I'LL NEVER KNOW! THE COPS FOUND THE SIX BLANKS IN THE GUN'S LOCK BOX, AND ASSUMED I'D SCREWED UP...!"
...BUT I DIDN'T! EVERYBODY THINKS IT WAS MY INCOMP--INCOMET--MY ERROR THAT KILLED BRANDI HOWELL! BUT IT WAS SOMEBODY ELSE--ONE OF THEM!
YOU THINK SO, HUH?
"I KNOW SO! BUT ONLY KYLE ROGERS, TERRY DONOVAN OR SHARON BAXTER WOULD'VE BEEN CLOSE ENOUGH TO THE GUN WAGON TO SWITCH BULLETS!"
"BUT WOULD ANY OF THEM HAVE HAD TIME?"
"NOT EVEN CLOSE. I LOADED THE GUN--WITH BLANKS!--THEN FIFTEEN SECONDS LATER, I GAVE IT TO ROGERS! THEY WERE ALL AROUND ME, BUT NOBODY HAD THE TIME TO SWITCH SHELLS! IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE!"

OPEN
BAR
AW HELL, LISTEN, KID--I APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE TRYIN' T'GET A NEW SLANT ON ALL THIS FOR YOUR ARTICLE, BUT IT'S BEEN THIRTY YEARS! NOTHIN' NEW'S GONNA TURN UP NOW!
BAR
WELL, YOU NEVER KNOW...!
AND NOW THEY'RE MAKING ANOTHER JUSTICE GIRL MOVIE! WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?
I TRY NOT TO!
YEAH, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO LOVE THAT NEW COSTUME!
JUSTICE GIRL 1998
YOU TWO--!
COME HERE...!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, MISS MAYS!
WELL, I'M VERY SORRY, MR. CARSTAIRS...
...BUT THE EVIDENCE CLEARLY SHOWS THAT ONLY YOUR SON-IN-LAW CAN BE BEHIND YOUR WAREHOUSE THEFTS...
Jennifer Mays

...WHAT YOU CHOOSE TO DO WITH THE INFORMATION IS UP TO--
SANDY, I SAID "NO INTERRUPTIONS."
I KNOW, MISS MAYS...
BUT...
...PSPSCH SHWA A PPT SPPT.
OH, MY GOD...!
I'M SORRY, MR. CARSTAIRS, I HAVE TO GO. SANDY WILL SEE TO YOUR NEEDS.
ER... PERHAPS SOME COFFEE?
YOU FOUGHT 'IM OFF? THAT TOOK GUTS, PROFESSOR!
NO, I KICKED OVER AS MANY TRASH CANS AS I COULD SEE AND SCREAMED LIKE A BABY, SERGEANT SIMONS! BUT I DON'T THINK HE WAS--
GENCY
SIONS

YOU'VE GOT A VISITOR, WEBB!
JEN! THANKS FOR--
---CMRRRRRF
LIEUTENANT BLISS SAID SHE SAW YOUR NAME ON AN ASSAULT REPORT! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
IF I WASN'T BEFORE, I AM NOW...
...BETTER THAN DONNY HOPKINS, ANYWAY.
ANOTHER MUGGING... THIS CITY'S NOT FIT FOR PEOPLE, ANYMORE!
EMERGE
No Smoking
THAT WAS NO MUGGING, LIEUTENANT! HE DIDN'T EVEN DEMAND MONEY, HE JUST ATTACKED HOPKINS, THEN RAN WHEN I CALLED FOR HELP!
HOPKINS WAS MURDERED, AND I'LL BET IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE DEATH OF BRAND HOWELL, THIRTY YEARS AGO!
HERE WE GO AGAIN...!

HERE WE ARE...!
...MY TREASURE TROVE!
JUSTICE Girl
LET'S SEE...!
PRETTY BEATEN UP...WRITING ON THE COVERS--THOSE THAT HAVE COVERS... NOT WORTH MUCH TO A COLLECTOR, BABE!
WELL, THEY'RE WORTH A LOT TO ME!
I REMEMBER WHEN BRANDI HOWELL WAS KILLED. MY PARENTS TRIED TO KEEP IT FROM ME, BUT EVERYONE AT SCHOOL KNEW...
SAME THING WITH ME AND MY PARENTS...
IF THAT POOR MR. HOPKINS WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE KNEW SOMETHING ABOUT BRANDI HOWELL'S DEATH, WE HAVE TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT.
I ADMIT HE GOT THE SHORT END OF THE STICK, BUT I WAS ATTACKED, TOO. LET'S NOT FORGET!
POOR BABY. WANT ME TO MAKE IT ALL BETTER?
I DIDN'T KNOW JUSTICE GIRL COULD READ MINDS...!

HONEY, I *TOLD* YOU YOU JUST CAN'T GET A DIRECTOR ON THE *PHONE*...!
MONARCH FILMS
NO ONE IGNORES *MY* CALLS!
I'M HERE TO SEE MISTER *JED ARMITAGE*...
YES, HERE YOU ARE...
JUST PUT THIS ON AND JOIN THE *LINE*. CASTING IS AROUND THE *CORNER*.
... VERY WELL.
PUT YOUR EYES BACK IN YOUR *SKULL*, ACE. I AM *NOT* WEARING THIS!
AT LEAST, NOT IN *PUBLIC*.
SUIT-- NO PUN INTENDED-- *YOURSELF*, JEN...
...BUT YOU'LL BE THE *LONE HOLD-OUT!*
"*JUSTICE GIRL* IS HERE!"
"IT'S TIME FOR *JUSTICE GIRL*...!"
"I AM *JUSTICE GIRL!*"

WAIT YOUR TURN, SISTER...!
I'M NOT HERE TO AUDITION.
NEXT, PLEASE.
WELL, YOU LOOK THE PART, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO PROVE YOU CAN ACT. DO YOU HAVE A RESUME?
I'M NOT AN ACTRESS, MR. ARMITAGE, I'M A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, INQUIRING INTO THE DEATH OF DONNY HOPKINS.
HOPKINS...? YES, I SAW THAT IN ONE OF THE DAILY TRADE PAPERS. I THOUGHT HE WAS MURDERED.
IT MAY HAVE BEEN MORE THAN THAT, MR. ARMITAGE. IS THERE SOMEPLACE WE CAN TALK...?
YOU CAN IMAGINE, WITH HOPKINS' NAME COMING UP AGAIN AND WORKING ON THIS PROJECT, IT'S A REAL NOSTALGIA TRIP FOR ME. I WAS THE STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER ON THE FIRST "JUSTICE GIRL" MOVIE.
YOU WERE THERE WHEN BRANDI HOWELL WAS KILLED?
GOD, YES. IT WAS TERRIBLE. MY PHOTOS HELPED CONVINCE THE AUTHORITIES THAT HOPKINS WAS RESPONSIBLE. I DON'T THINK HE EVER QUITE FORGAVE ME, BUT--
BUT THE CAMERA DOESN'T LIE.
NO. DEALING WITH AGENTS EVERY DAY, I SOMETIMES THINK IT'S THE ONLY THING THAT DOESN'T. ARE YOU SURE THESE WEREN'T--?
TWO DEATHS OF PEOPLE WORKING ON THE SAME PROJECT IS A LONG SHOT FOR COINCIDENCE, MR. ARMITAGE, EVEN THIRTY YEARS APART. I'LL BE IN TOUCH.

MISS MAYS, WAIT! I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU!
MY, A VISIT FROM JUSTICE GIRL HERSELF! THIS IS MY DREAM COME TRUE!
NOT TO MENTION MINE!
OH, I FORGOT ABOUT THE MASK! MY NAME IS TERRY DONOVAN, WHEN I SAW YOU THERE, I--
NEVER USE THE WORD "OLD" AROUND AN ACTOR, FELLA! AND AS FAR AS THE MOVIE PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED, MY NAME IS "TRISH DEVERS".
AND I PRESUME YOU'RE LOOKING FOR BRANDI HOWELL'S KILLER, TOO, MS. DONOVAN?
TERRY DONOVAN? YOU PLAYED JUSTICE GIRL'S KID SIDEKICK IN THE OLD MOVIE!
HOW DID YOU--?
I UNDERSTAND. HERE'S MY CARD. LET ME KNOW IF YOU LEARN ANYTHING. BUT BE CAREFUL.
BREAK A LEG!
IF YOU REALLY WANTED THE PART, YOU'D BE USING YOUR REAL NAME, TO EXPLOIT YOUR CONNECTION TO THE PROPERTY! I ASSUME DONNY HOPKINS' DEATH REAWAKENED YOUR INTEREST?
NO, I'VE ALWAYS FELT BRANDI WAS KILLED. I THOUGHT MAYBE BY GETTING INSIDE THE PROJECT I COULD LOOK AROUND AND. .WELL, BRANDI WAS GREAT, YOU KNOW? SHE NEVER TALKED DOWN TO ME, OR TREATED ME LIKE A KID!

BOY, HARD TO BELIEVE SHE WAS IN THE FIRST "JUSTICE GIRL" MOVIE! SHE LOOKS GREAT!
OH, REALLY?
DID I SAY "GREAT"? WELL, MAYBE, BUT YOU LOOK TERRIFIC!
WHY, YOU LAMB...!
AH, THERE'S A CAB!
AMALGAMATED TELEVISION STUDIOS IN FLUSHING, QUEENS, PLEASE.
THAT MUST BE ME.
BREEEEEEP
UNLESS THE CABBIE HAS A CELL PHONE!
SHALL I STOP THEM, SIR?
NOT YET, JOHANN, JUST FOLLOW THEM.
HELLO? YES, SANDY. ANYTHING INTERESTING IN THE AUTOPSY? REALLY...? FILL ME IN...

AND WE'RE HERE... WHY?
TO TALK TO KYLE ROGERS. HE PLAYS "BRICK CARVER," THE MAFIA DON TURNED PRIEST ON "THE TRIALS AND THE TEARS."
THE TRIALS AND
PLEASE Sign In With The Guard
HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH --? HEY, THAT'S WHY YOU'RE NEVER AVAILABLE FROM 2:30 TO 3:00! YOU'RE A "TRIAL AND TEARS" FAN!
I MAY HAVE SEEN AN EPISODE OR TWO...
MR. ROGERS, I APPRECIATE YOUR SEEING US.
MY PLEASURE, MISS MAYS. WELL, NOT MY PLEASURE, EXACTLY...
I UNDERSTAND. EVERYONE WHO KNEW BRANDI HOWELL SEEMS TO HAVE LIKED HER.
SHE WAS THE BEST. AND TO THINK THAT I FIRED THE SHOTS THAT... THAT --
DO YOU RECALL ANYTHING WRONG ABOUT THE GUN? DID ANYONE HAVE A CHANCE TO SWITCH THE CARTRIDGES?
NO ONE. I WAS ASKED ALL THESE QUESTIONS BACK IN '67. IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE, MR. WEBB.

"IMPOSSIBLE" IS A VERY STRONG WORD, MR. ROGERS.
LOOK, YOU MUST KNOW GUNS! CRACKING THE CHAMBER AND RELOADING ALL SIX SHELLS TAKES AT LEAST A FEW SECONDS, AND IT TAKES BOTH HANDS! SOMEONE WOULD HAVE NOTICED IT!
I WASN'T WATCHING THE GUN SPECIFICALLY. WE WERE ALL MILLING AROUND THE GUN WAGON, AND I WON'T SAY NO ONE WENT NEAR IT. BUT NO ONE COULD HAVE SWITCHED THE SHELLS...EXCEPT HOPKINS!
MISTER ROGERS?
WE'RE READY TO SHOOT THOSE PROMO PHOTOS NOW.
BE RIGHT THERE.
IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE, MISS MAYS?
WELL, THERE IS ONE THING, MR. ROGERS...
WERE YOU AWARE THAT BRANDI HOWELL WAS PREGNANT?
WERE YOU AWARE THAT BRANDI HOWELL WAS PREGNANT?
IT WASN'T MINE! IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN! I--!
GUESS YOU GOT ME WITH THAT ONE. GOOD BLUFF.
IT WAS NO BLUFF, MR. ROGERS, SHE WAS PREGNANT. THE TWO OF YOU WERE HAVING AN AFFAIR?
YES. I THOUGHT NO ONE WOULD EVER KNOW. BUT IF SHE WAS PREGNANT, IT WASN'T MINE, I WAS ALWAYS CAREFUL!
DO YOU THINK IT COULD HAVE BEEN HER HUSBAND? ST EDGAR ASHTON'S?

I DON'T THINK SO. SEEING HIM, I'D BE SURPRISED IF HE COULD HAVE CHILDREN! BRANDI MARRIED HIM JUST FOR SECURITY.
HAVE YOU HAD ANY CONTACT WITH ASHTON LATELY?
HAVEN'T EVEN SEEN HIM SINCE BRANDI'S FUNERAL. I UNDERSTAND HE MARRIED SHARON BAXTER. TALK ABOUT "REBOUND," MARRYING BRANDI'S STAND-IN...!
EXIT
WELL, FROM WHAT I'VE HEARD OF MR. ASHTON, HE SEEMS A VERY COMPLEX MAN. THANK YOU, MR. ROGERS.
I KEPT WAITING FOR YOU TO ASK HIM FOR HIS AUTOGRAPH.
I PREFER TO WAIT UNTIL WE SEE IF HE'S GUILTY OR NOT. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HARD TO SAY. IF HE HAD SWITCHED SHELLS, YOU'D THINK HE'D BE FALLING DOWN TRYING TO IMPLICATE SOMEONE ELSE.
UNLESS HE'S VERY CLEVER. BUT THEN, HE IS AN ACTOR. HOWEVER, HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING...
...ANYONE WHO SWITCHED THE SHELLS WOULD HAVE BEEN NOTICED -- EVEN HIM.
OH, POOH, WE'LL NEVER GET A CAB...
UH, JEN...
...I THINK THAT PROBLEM'S BEEN SOLVED.
MISS MAYS? MISTER WEBB? MISTER EDGAR ASHTON WOULD LIKE A WORD, PLEASE...

"IMPOSING PILE," AS DAFFY DUCK WOULD SAY. I'M NOT SURE IF I CAN GO IN BY THE FRONT, THEY MAY MAKE ME USE THE TRADESMAN'S ENTRANCE!
I'LL VOUCH FOR YOU, ACE!
AH, HERE YOU ARE, MISS MAYS, MISTER WEBB! I WAS AFRAID YOU MIGHT BOLT ONCE YOU WERE OUT OF JOHANN'S CARE!
NOT AT ALL, MR. ASHTON! YOU'RE A HARD MAN TO GET A HOLD OF!
YES, I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T RETURNED YOUR CALLS, I PREFER TO DO BUSINESS IN PERSON. UNCONVENTIONAL, I SUPPOSE, BUT IT'S SERVED ME WELL.
THEN YOU'RE AWARE OF MY INQUIRIES INTO THE DEATH OF BRANDI HOWELL...
THREE COFFEES.
VERY MUCH SO, MISS MAYS. I MET HER WHEN I INVESTED IN HER FILM, AND OUR ACQUAINTANCE SOON BECAME MUCH MORE. I MISS HER TO THIS DAY. ONE OF THE REASONS I WANTED TO SPEAK TO YOU IN PERSON...
...WAS TO GIVE YOU THIS -- A RETAINER FOR YOUR SERVICES.
THANK YOU, MR. ASHTON, THIS IS QUITE SUFFICIENT...

...BUT I'D ALSO LIKE TO SPEAK TO MRS. ASHTON -- THE FORMER SHARON BAXTER.
I'D ANTICIPATED YOUR DESIRE, MISS MAYS; SHARON HAS PREPARED A NOTARIZED STATEMENT FOR YOU.
THIS IS FINE, MR. ASHTON, BUT I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO MRS. ASHTON IN PERSON, PLEASE.
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T ALLOW THAT, MISS MAYS. MY WIFE HIGHLY VALUES HER PRIVACY.
clik
AND I VALUE MY FREEDOM TO TALK TO WHOMEVER I NEED TO IN THE COURSE OF AN INVESTIGATION, MR. ASHTON! UNLESS YOU PERMIT ME TO --
DON'T PRESS ME, MISS MAYS! YOU'VE NO IDEA WHAT I CAN --
JEN...
...MR. ASHTON IS RIGHT, WHY DON'T WE JUST SORT OUT WHAT WE'VE LEARNED TODAY?
LISTEN TO YOUR COLLEAGUE, MISS MAYS!
GABE...!
WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT, MISTER? DON'T YOU DARE -- !
GABE, LISTEN TO ME! WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
AN UNSCHEDULED APPOINTMENT, JEN...

...AND A WAY FOR YOU TO HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT, TOO!
IN HERE, QUICKLY! EDGAR'S ABOUT TO LEAVE, IF HE SEES YOU...!
THANK YOU FOR DEFYING YOU HUSBAND'S WISHES, MRS. ASHTON. I TAKE IT YOU'RE INTERESTED IN FINDING THE KILLER OF BRANDI HOWELL?
CALL ME SHARON. I LOVED BRANDI! I THOUGHT IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, BUT NOW...I DON'T KNOW ANYMORE!
YOU THINK MR. ASHTON IS INVOLVED?
I DON'T... MAYBE. I MET HIM AT BRANDI'S FUNERAL. HE BEGAN SEEING ME, THEN PROPOSED MARRIAGE. I THOUGHT, "WHY NOT?" I WASN'T GETTING ANY YOUNGER...
...UNTIL I REALIZED HE DIDN'T WANT ME, HE WANTED BRANDI! HE MAKES ME DYE MY HAIR, DRESS LIKE SHE DID -- HE EVEN CALLS ME BRANDI WHEN WE'RE ALONE!
WHY WOULD HE HAVE KILLED BRANDI IF HE LOVED HER?
BECAUSE HE HAS A TERRIBLE TEMPER -- AND I THINK HE KNEW BRANDI WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH KYLE ROGERS.
DID MR. ASHTON KNOW BRANDI WAS PREGNANT? WAS HE THE FATHER?
I DON'T THINK HE KNEW, NO -- BRANDI SAID SHE DIDN'T TELL ANYONE BUT ME. I GUESS HE COULD HAVE BEEN THE FATHER, THOUGH. SHE DIDN'T TELL ME WHO THAT WAS.

ONE LAST QUESTION, SHARON -- THE DAY OF THE SHOOTING, DID ANYONE HAVE A CHANCE TO SWITCH THE BLANKS WITH LIVE CARTRIDGES?
NOW PLEASE, GO!
I'VE RELIVED THAT MOMENT FOR YEARS -- BUT NO -- NO ONE EXCEPT DONNY HOPKINS.
THANK YOU, SHARON...
IF YOU EVER WANT TO TALK ABOUT YOUR...YOUR SITUATION, HERE'S MY --
KLIK
WELL, ONE THING AT A TIME. AT LEAST WE GOT TO TALK TO HER -- AND I GET TO KEEP ASHTON AS A BIG-DOLLAR CLIENT -- THANKS TO YOU, ACE.
MY PLEASURE, M'LADY. I HAVE A THOUSAND-AND-ONE USES ABOUT THE HOME AND OFFICE.
SO WHAT'S NEXT -- IN THE CASE, I MEAN?
WELL, I'M NOT SURE. BUT THAT BUSINESS ABOUT THE GUN SEEMS TO BE BOTHERING BOTH OF US...
DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T NOTICED...!

"...WHY DON'T WE LOOK INTO THAT -- AND HOPKIN'S PAPERS -- AFTER I DEPOSIT THIS CHECK."
IT'S NO USE, JEN...
...YOU CAN SWITCH CARTRIDGES IN SECONDS BY USING A SPEED LOADER, BUT IT TAKES TWO HANDS. ANYONE AROUND THE GUN WAGON WOULD HAVE BEEN INSTANTLY SUSPICIOUS.
>SIGH< WELL, LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW...
...LET'S GO THROUGH SOME MORE OF MR. HOPKINS' PAPERS, MAYBE THERE WILL BE SOMETHING WE CAN USE. POUR ME A CUP OF COFFEE, WOULD YOU, PLEASE?
SURE THING...
? THIS THERMOS WAS FULL A MINUTE AGO!
OVER HERE, SHERLOCK
WE WENT THROUGH THAT THERMOS AN HOUR AGO. THIS IS THE FULL ONE!
OH, RIGHT...
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE...!
GABE, HUSH.

I THINK I HEARD --
KRASSSSH
GABE!
GET OUT OF HERE!
WHAT ABOUT -- ?
GO!
MISTER, PLEASE -- NO ELEVATOR IN THIS BUILDIN'...
BLAM
ZINNNNG SPWEEE
KSHHHHT

FLSSSHHH
hsssssssst
>WHEW<
STOP!
SPWEEEE
ONNNG
WHUMP
STOP!
BLAM
NOOOO...!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
ARE YOU?

ONE OF OUR NEW "ACQUAINTANCES" MUST HAVE HIRED HIM. TOO BAD HE CAN'T TELL US WHICH ONE.
HEY, I SAW THAT GUY IN THE BAR WITH HOPKINS AND ME! HE PROBABLY KILLED HIM!
HE DOESN'T HAVE TO.
YOU MEAN -- ?
IT'S AS SIMPLE AS GRAVITY. I KNOW WHO HIRED HIM -- AND WHO REALLY KILLED BRANDI HOWELL!
"THE KILLER -- THE PERSON WHO WANTED BRANDI HOWELL DEAD --WAS AFRAID SOMEONE --LIKE ME -- WOULD GET INTERESTED IN THE CASE WITH A NEW 'JUSTICE GIRL' MOVIE IN PRODUCTION..."
ONE POLICE PLACE
...SO HE HIRED THE MUGGER TO TRAIL HOPKINS. AND SURE ENOUGH, WHEN A WRITER LIKE ME STARTED ASKING QUESTIONS, THE MUGGER REACTED -- MAYBE OVERREACTED -- AND KILLED HOPKINS.
OF COURSE, THAT CLEARED DONNY HOPKINS OF BRANDI HOWELL'S DEATH. UNFORTUNATELY, IT COMES TOO LATE TO SAVE HIS REPUTATION, OR HIS LIFE.
BUT...HOW? HOPKINS IS STILL THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD HAVE LOADED THAT GUN WITH LIVE SHELLS!

YES -- AND REPLACING THE SHELLS WOULD HAVE BEEN APPARENT TO ALL PRESENT, AS WE'VE DISCUSSED! BUT THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO DO THAT! REPLACE ONLY THE SHELLS...
...OR REPLACE THE ENTIRE GUN! THAT WOULD TAKE ONLY SECONDS, AND COULD BE DONE ONE-HANDED! YOU ALL HAD OR COULD GET ACCESS TO THE GUN AND COULD HAVE BOUGHT ANOTHER ONE WITH A FAKED SERIAL NUMBER!
NOT SO FAST, WEBB...
...LOOK AT THEM! NONE OF THEM CAN POSSIBLY BE CARRYING ANYTHING THE SIZE AND WEIGHT OF A GUN ON THEM!
THAT'S TRUE, LIEUTENANT...
...BUT THE EXISTENCE OF A PHOTOGRAPH PRESUPPOSES THE PRESENCE OF A PHOTOGRAPHER! SOMEONE WHO WAS CARRYING LOTS OF GEAR AND COULD EASILY HIDE A GUN!
WELL, MR. ARMITAGE?
IT'S NOT TRUE! WHY WOULD I WANT BRANDI DEAD?
BECAUSE SHE WAS HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH YOU, WASN'T SHE? HER BABY WAS ALSO YOURS! THEN YOU GOT OVER THE ADOLESCENT THRILL OF HAVING SLEPT WITH A STAR...
...AND REALIZED WHO THAT STAR WAS MARRIED TO!
YOU, ARMITAGE...?

...YOU GAVE BRANDI THE CHILD I NEVER COULD?
STOP IT --!
SHE PROBABLY WANTED A DIVORCE -- TO HAVE HER BABY AND TO LIVE HER OWN LIFE! BUT YOU KNEW ASHTON WOULD CRUSH YOUR CAREER!
I...I WON'T SAY A WORD WITHOUT A LAWYER...!
ONCE AGAIN, WE'VE SAVED CIVILIZATION AS WE KNOW IT.
YOU KNOW, IT'LL BE TOO BAD IF THEY DON'T CONTINUE WITH THE MOVIE. WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO HAVE SOME "JUSTICE GIRL" ACTION FIGURES, JEN?
JEN?
ACTUALLY, ACE...
...I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU!
END

What? Did you think he was going to be gone forever?!
Get ready.
Jon Sable
returns to comics this October from Caliber Comics!
All Sable. All Grell. All Caliber.
(Oh yeah... and Maggie the Cat might be there, too!)

MAZE

225 N. Sheldon Rd., Plymouth, MI 48170
E-mail at CalComic@aol.com

AGENTS

Hey, thanks for coming! One of two greetings in order, both heartfelt: 1) "Welcome to *The Maze Agency*," or 2) "Welcome **back** to *The Maze Agency*."

You see, *The Maze Agency* originally thrived back in 1988-1991, first from Comico, then from Innovation. Early issues showcased the art of a young penciller, **Adam Hughes**, who has gone on to bigger things (though, you'll forgive a father's pride, none better) and **Rick Magyar**, one of comics' best inkers and a talented penciller in his own right. **Robb Phipps** also pencilled several swell issues. In its time, the title did pretty well for itself, garnering nominations for "Best New Title" for 1988 from the "Eisner" Awards, the "Harvey" Awards, and the "Golden Apple" Awards. (We lost all three of these, thus automatically winning the industry's honorary "Always a Bridesmaid" Award.) But more important, we also established a loyal core of readers who have been requesting the title's return since the day it was cancelled. If you're one of them, greeting #2 applies, and thanks for waiting. If you've never heard of *Maze* before, well...

The Maze Agency is that rarity among contemporary comic books, a series that is *not* about superheroes. "Not that there's anything wrong with that," as they say on "Seinfeld," but *Maze* is about good, old-fashioned **detective stories**. Murder mysteries. In a word, **Whodunits**, the genre created by no less a literary light than Edgar Allan Poe, in "The Murders In the Rue Morgue," back in 1841, and taken up and polished to a glowing sheen by taltented craftsmen such as John Dickson Carr, Agatha Christie, Rex Stout and--my personal favorite--**Ellery Queen**. No super-heroics here, but plenty of old-fashioned heroics as our heroes struggle to solve baffling murders, to trap killers the police can't catch, and to keep innocent men from being executed for crimes they did not commit.

"Our heroes"? Ah, yes. Let me introduce Miss **Jennifer Mays**, private detective and owner of *The Maze Agency*, New York's finest detective firm (at least, that's what her brochures say). Miss Mays' partner in crime-solving is Mr. **Gabriel Webb,** a true crime writer and Miss Mays' paramour. "They're young, they're in love, and they solve crimes." That's what *Maze* is all about. Entertaining murder mysteries leavened with the romantic life of Miss Mays and Mr. Webb.

Of course, there are lots of other folks involved with Maze as well, and not just in the stories themselves. Penciller **Gene Gonzales** has worked for Caliber on several titles, and now brings his fine line and discerning eye to *The Maze Agency*. Inker **David Rowe** was Gene's personal choice for the job; his flowing ink line accentuates Gene's pencils just right.

Lots of guys behind the scenes are involved, too, the most prominent being Caliber Publisher **Gary Reed** and Editor **Joe Pruett**. I was talking to Joe and Gary a while back about another project and, when the talk drifted to *Maze*, we soon found ourselves discussing bringing the title back! As I've said elsewhere in promotional material for *Maze* #1, lost of prominent publishers whine a lot about the need to expand the field beyond super-heroes, but when it came to actually walking the walk--to publishing *Maze*--every one of the had a roster of watertight reasons why they couldn't. Except Caliber, who wants only to publish good comics.

And I hope you want to read only good comics. If *Maze* #1 made the grade or fell short of the mark, let us know at the above address.

Hey, it's good to be back. Thanks for watiing.

• **The Old Pluggeroo**: If you like what you've read here, whether an old or new *Maze* Agent, you may enjoy *The Maze Agency Graphic Novel*, also available from Caliber, a collection of the first four issues of the first *Maze* series with art by **Adam Hughes** and **Rick Magyar**. Ask your comics dealer!

NEXT ISSUE: Jen and Gabe travel to a monastery to track down a mob witness, only to encounter a baffling murder and find themselves trapped with a killer! Be here for "The Adventure of the Realm of Silence!"

--MWB

This issue is for **Diana Schutz**, **Bob Schreck**, **Michael Eury** and **David Campiti**--four good friends of *Maze*.

TECHNOPOLIS

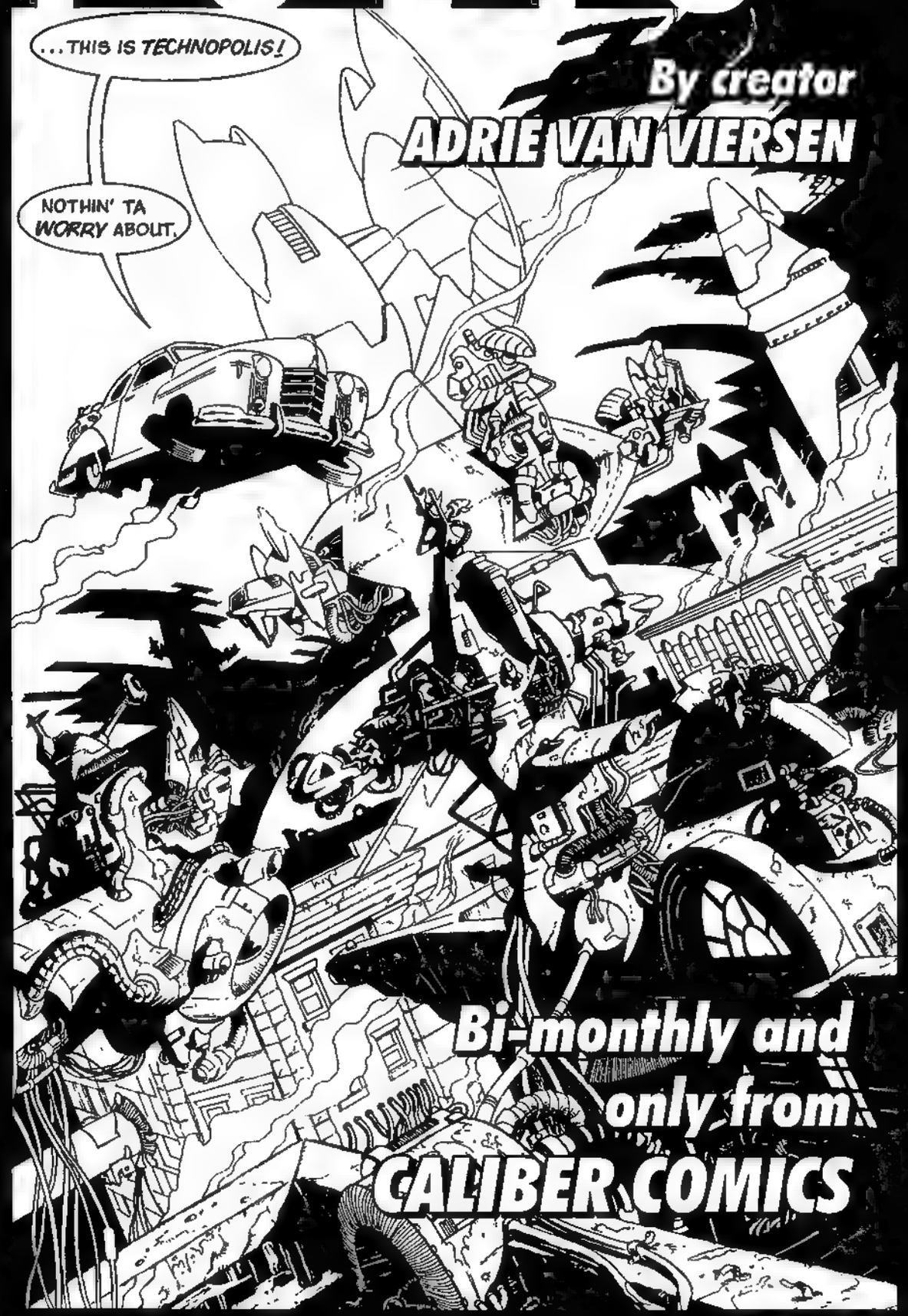
It is 1949.

Seventeen years ago, they arrived from the stars seeking sanctuary.

With their help, science fiction became reality.

Now, the fate of the entire planet Earth hangs in the balance.

One man holds the secret that can save the world.



By creator
ADRIE VAN VIERSEN

Bi-monthly and only from
CALIBER COMICS

TECHNOPOLIS is a copyright and trademark 1997 of Adrie Van Viersen. All rights reserved.

CALIBER COMICS KEY BACKLIST

Apparition 1	$2.95
Apparition 3	$2.95
Apparition 4	$2.95
Atomic Overdrive 1	$2.95
Bandy Man 1	$2.95
Bandy Man 2	$2.95
Bandy Man 3	$2.95
Book of Angels	
Lago cover	$3.95
Jorgenson cover	$3.95
Calibrations Set	
Issues 1-5	$4.95
Cavewoman 1	$2.95
Cavewoman 2	$2.95
Cavewoman 3	$2.95
Cavewoman 4	$2.95
Cavewoman 5	$2.95
Most current printings of 1-5	
Cavewoman 6	$2.95
Cavewoman 7	$2.95
Construct 1	$2.95
Construct 2	$2.95
Construct 3	$2.95
Construct 4	$2.95
Construct 5	$2.95
Construct 6	$2.95
Daemonstorm 1	$3.95
Daemonstorm: Oz	$3.95
Daemonstorm: Deadworld	$3.95
Daemonstorm: Kilroy	$2.95
Daemonstorm: LegendLore	$3.95
Daemonstorm:Stormwalker	$3.95
Dicks 1	$2.95
Dicks 2	$2.95
Golgothika 1	$2.95
Golgothika 2	$2.95
Golgothika 3	$2.95
High Caliber 1	$3.95
High Caliber 2	$3.95
High Caliber 3	$3.95
Jinx 2	$2.95
Jinx 3	$2.95
Jinx 5	$2.95
Jinx 6	$2.95
Jinx 7	$2.95
Jinx Special, Mack	$4.95
Jinx Special, Meyer	$4.95
Kabuki: Circle of Blood 3	$2.95
Kabuki: Circle of Blood 4	$2.95
Kabuki: Circle of Blood 5	$2.95
Kabuki: Circle of Blood 6	$2.95
Kabuki: Color Gallery	$2.95
Kabuki: Masks Noh 3	$2.95
Kabuki: Masks Noh 4	$2.95
Kabuki:SkinDeep1(Color)	$2.95
Kabuki:SkinDeep2(Color)	$2.95
Kabuki:SkinDeep3(Color)	$2.95
Kaos Moon 1	$2.95
Kaos Moon 2	$2.95
Kaos Moon 3	$2.95
LegendLore 5	$2.95
LegendLore 6	$2.95
LegendLore 7	$2.95
LegendLore 8	$2.95
LegendLore:Realmwars 1	
Boller Cover	$2.95
Xavier Cover	$2.95
Lost 1	$2.95
Marquis: Les Preludes	$2.95

MIKE DEODATO COMICS

Fallout 3000	$2.95
Jonas	$2.95
Prime Cuts (mag. siz)	$2.95
Proteus 1	$2.95
Proteus 2	$2.95
Samurai	$2.95
Razor Nights (adult)	$2.95

Moebius 1	$2.95
Moebius 2	$2.95
Moebius 3	$2.95
Moebius 4	$2.95
Moebius 5	$2.95
Moebius 6	$2.95
Negative Burn 44	$3.95
Negative Burn 45	$3.95
Negative Burn 46	$3.95
Negative Burn 47	$3.95
New Worlds 1 (80 pages)	$2.95
New Worlds 2	$3.95
New Worlds 3	$3.95
New Worlds 4	$3.95
New Worlds 5	$3.95
New Worlds 6	$3.95
Nowheresville 1	$2.95
Nowheresville 2	$2.95
Nowheresville 3	$2.95
Nowheresville 4	$2.95
Oz 16	$2.95
Oz 17	$2.95
Oz 18	$2.95
Oz 19	$2.95
Oz 20	$2.95
Oz: Straw & Sorcery 1	$2.95
Oz: Straw & Sorcery 2	$2.95
Oz: Straw & Sorcery 3	$2.95
Raven Chronicles 4	$2.95
Raven Chronicles 9	$2.95
Raven Chronicles 10	$2.95
Raven Chronicles 11	$2.95
Raven Chronicles 12	$2.95
Raven Chronicles 13	$3.95
Raven Chronicles 14	$2.95
Rib 1	$2.95
Saint Germaine 1	$2.95
Saint Germaine 2	$2.95
Saint Germaine 3	$2.95
Searchers 1	$2.95
Searchers 2	$2.95
Searchers 3	$2.95
Searchers 4	$2.95
Searchers:Apostle Mercy 1	$3.95
Ship of Fools 1	$2.95
Ship of Fools 2	$2.95
Ship of Fools 3	$2.95
Ship of Fools 4	$2.95
Ship of Fools 5	$2.95
Thundergod Special	$2.95
War of the Worlds 1	$2.95
War of the Worlds 2	$2.95
War of the Worlds 3	$2.95
War of the Worlds 4	$2.95

War of the Worlds 5	$2.95
TAPESTRY COMICS	
BoonDoggle Special	$2.95
BoonDoggle 1	$2.95
BoonDoggle 2	$2.95
BoonDoggle 3	$2.95
Dreamwalker 1	$2.95
Dreamwalker 2	$2.95
Dreamwalker 3	$2.95
Explorers 1	$2.95
Explorers 2	$2.95
Explorers 3	$2.95
The Hoon 1	$2.95
The Hoon 2	$2.95
Pakkins' Land 1 (reprint)	$2.95
Pakkins' Land 2 (reprint)	$2.95
Pakkins' Land 3	$2.95
Pakkins' Land 4	$2.95
Pakkins' Land 5	$2.95
Patty Cake 1	$2.95
Patty Cake 2	$2.95
Patty Cake Christmas	$2.95
Terror Tots (digest)	$2.95
Trollords 1	$2.95
Trollords 2	$2.95
GRAPHIC NOVELS	
A.K.A. Goldfish	$17.95
Baker Street (Honor #1)	$14.95
Case of Blind Fear	$12.95
Days of Darkness	$14.95
Dominique	$12.95
ESPers	$12.95
ERT!	$12.95
Fire	$12.95
Fringe	$12.95
Kabuki: Compilation	$7.95
LegendLore	$12.95
NegativeBurn: Year One	$9.95
NegativeBurn: Year Two	$9.95
OZ: Mayhem In Munchkin	$14.95
OZ: Gathering of Heroes	$14.95
Raven Chronicles	$12.95
Renfield	$8.95
Scarlet in Gaslight	$12.95
Silencers	$18.95
Sinergy	$14.95
Street Shadows	$12.95
Young Dracula	$18.95

These books sizzle in August, reserve your copy TODAY!

FRITZ LANG'S METROPOLIS #1

UNTOUCHABLES #1

SHIPMAN'S PAKKINS' LAND: QUEST FOR KINGS #1

Look for these books at your local retailer. If they don't have them, the retailer or you can order them by simply calling, Toll Free...1-888-22-COMIC. MasterCard and Visa accepted. Or just photocopy this order form and send it along with a check or money order to...

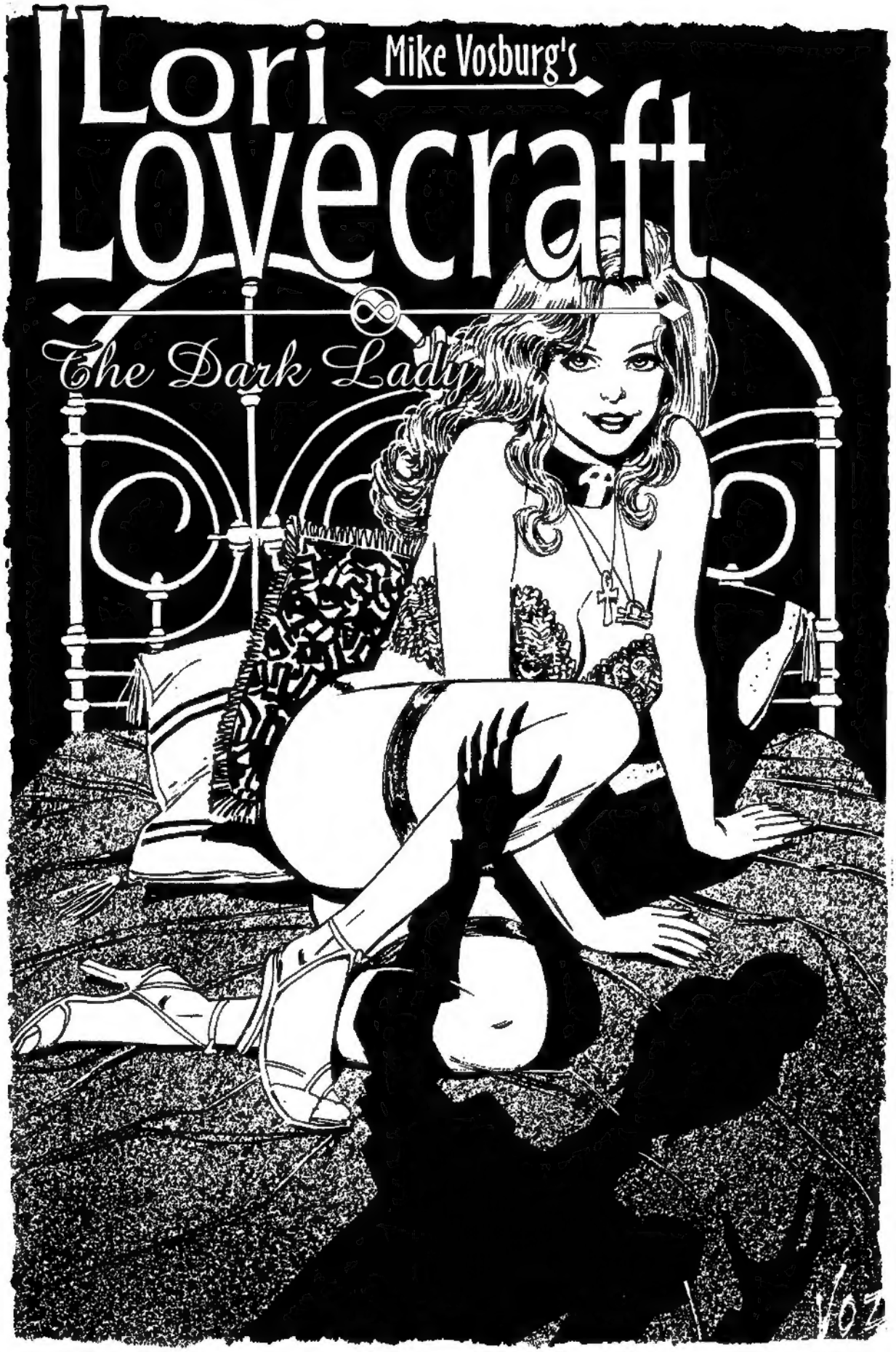
Caliber Comics
225 N. Sheldon Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Name	**Address**
City/State/Zip	**Telephone #**
Mastercard or Visa #	**Exp. Date**

Item Description (Include Issue number)	QTY	Price	Ext Price

Sub	
S/H	
Total	

Shipping Information
Under $10.00 -- Add $2.00
$10.01 - $25.00 -- Add $3.50
$25.01 - $75.00 -- Add $5.00
$75.01 - $150.00 -- Add $8.00
Over $150.00 -- Free
Foreign Orders - Add $5.00 to Shipping Cost
Add $4.75 for C.O.D. Orders



An all-new one-shot coming this October from Caliber!

FROM WHITLEY STRIEBER

Best Selling Author's True Story!

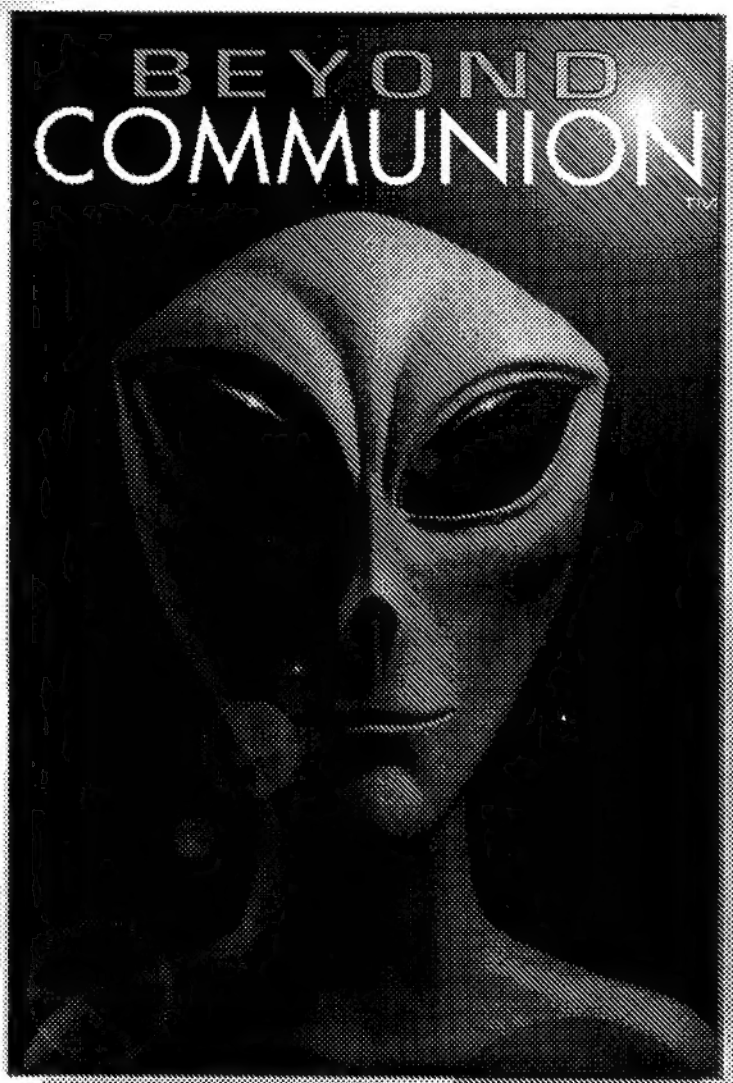
Written by Martin Powell
(Eisner Award Nominee)
and Illustrated by Shane White.

Whitley Strieber has met the VISITORS.

He knows what THEY look like.

He knows how it feels to be touched by THEM.

He may even know why THEY are here.



Are you ready for the TRUTH...?

Shipping September 1997. Giving Reader's a Choice.

CALIBER COMICS.

Beyond Communion is a ™ and © 1997 Whitley Strieber. All rights reserved.

REGULAR DOSES OF QUALITY
Untouchables
Metropolis
The Marquis
Saint Germaine
Maze Agency
Temptress
Cavewoman
Kaos Moon
Pakkins' Land
Beyond Communion
Necroscope
Jon Sable
Dicks
Sherlock Holmes
Rib
Only from Caliber Comics